

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 39

INTRODUCED BY TOOLE, GALLIK, A. OLSON, PERRY

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY TO EVALUATE THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF AN ONGOING ENERGY PLANNING AND COORDINATING ENTITY IN MONTANA.

WHEREAS, energy conservation and resource development are critical to Montana's future; and

WHEREAS, the cost and development of energy resources have a dramatic effect on all Montanans;

and

WHEREAS, there are numerous state agencies that are involved in a variety of energy issues ranging from permitting of new plants to providing energy assistance to low-income Montanans; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous federal entities that deal with energy issues, including transmission planning, river governance, and rate regulation; and

WHEREAS, there are many local government-based initiatives, including buying pools, and groups formed to evaluate municipal ownership of transmission, distribution, and generation; and

WHEREAS, there are nonprofit and for-profit organizations engaged in a variety of issues related to energy; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no single entity based in Montana specifically dedicated to planning, analysis, and evaluation of energy issues from a broad societal perspective; and

WHEREAS, it is almost impossible to have a vision for developing resources and meeting future needs without some entity being responsible for meeting that task.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Legislative Council be requested to designate an appropriate interim committee, pursuant to section 5-5-217, MCA, or direct sufficient staff resources to evaluate the possible creation of an ongoing energy planning and coordinating entity in Montana specifically to include:

(1) the potential costs and benefits of creating an energy planning and coordinating entity in the state;

(2) the interest groups that should be engaged in the study;

1 (3) the resources available and resources required for supporting an energy planning and coordinating
2 entity; and

3 (4) an examination of existing activities that could be better coordinated.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the study is assigned to staff, any findings or conclusions be
5 presented to and reviewed by an appropriate committee designated by the Legislative Council.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all aspects of the study, including presentation and review
7 requirements, be concluded prior to September 15, 2006.

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the final results of the study, including any findings, conclusions,
9 comments, or recommendations of the appropriate committee, be reported to the 60th Legislature.

10 - END -